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## ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY FOR HIGH SCHOOL TRANSFER STUDENTS

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### CURRENT UTAH HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION TRANSFER RULE:

- ▶ A transfer student loses eligibility at all competition levels (freshman through varsity) for 12 months from day of attendance at new school for one of the following reasons:
  - the student's intent or purpose for transferring was to participate in athletics
  - transfer does not otherwise comply with rules of the State Board of Education
  - the student does not receive confirmation from UHSAA on the status of eligibility
  - transfer mandated by school district for disciplinary reasons

### PROPOSED UTAH HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION TRANSFER RULE:

- ▶ Any transfer student loses eligibility at all competition levels (freshman through varsity) for 12 months from first day of attendance at new school, unless waived by UHSAA based on a student's hardship.
- ▶ Defines hardship: *"an unforeseeable, unavoidable, and uncorrectable act, condition, or event, which causes the imposition of a severe and non-athletic burden upon the student and/or his/her family."*
- ▶ Student requests the hardship waiver and provides documentation to UHSAA to substantiate the hardship.
- ▶ Some examples of a hardship could include:
  - A death, requiring student to change schools
  - A divorce, requiring student to change schools
  - A bona fide change in residence

### EXAMPLES OF COMPONENTS IN STATE TRANSFER POLICIES:

- ▶ waiting period after transfer occurs
  - few weeks, 30 days, 90 days, 18 weeks, 1 year
- ▶ waiting period for varsity level only
- ▶ waiting period depends on student's participation in a particular sport at the previous school
- ▶ waiting period depends on the time of the transfer
- ▶ waiting period required if the reason for the transfer was for athletic purposes only

### SUMMARIES OF SELECTED STATE POLICIES:

- ▶ **California**
  - allows a one-time transfer before the start of student's sophomore year without the waiting period
  - otherwise eligibility is established in a school in the 9th grade
  - restricts eligibility for one year after a transfer, with a hardship waiver process
  - restricts the waiting period to varsity sports participated in at previous school
- ▶ **Colorado**
  - policy specifically states that it attempts to balance school choice and deterring athletically-motivated transfers
  - if student transfers *during summer* without a bona fide family move, the student is restricted to 50% of the season in sports they participated in the previous year
  - if student transfers *during the school year* without a bona-fide family move, the student can file a hardship waiver or be eligible in sub-varsity sports for which they participated in during the previous year
  - if student transfers after the start of the school year, eligible for varsity level sports that they haven't previously participated in for the last year
- ▶ **South Dakota**
  - has a special provision specifically for "open enrollment" transfers, depending on time of transfer
  - student may have a one-time exemption from the transfer rule during high school career if they transfer schools under the state's open enrollment policy
  - otherwise, wait one year for eligibility after a transfer with no bona-fide change in residence
  - transfers during the summer carry no waiting period
  - transfers during the school year have a few weeks waiting period unless the student participated in an association-sponsored activity at the previous school, which would require the one year wait